EPIC COMICS

Timespirits™

TIMESPIRITS 7
DECEMBER 1985

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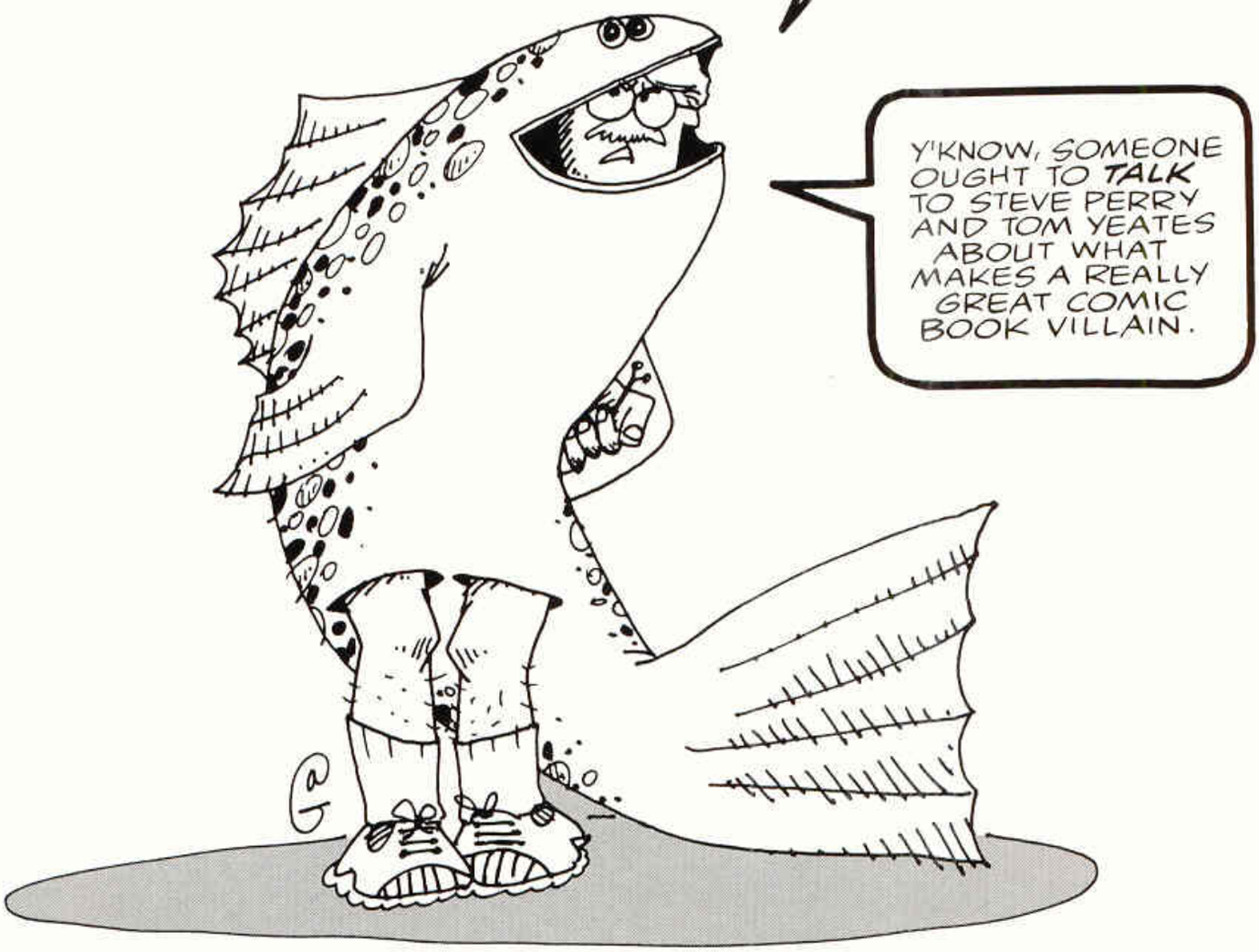
HELLO, I'M **ARCHIE GOODWIN**, EDITOR OF MARVEL'S **EPIC COMICS** LINE. BY NOW, IF YOU'RE A REGULAR READER OF **TIMESPIRITS** OR ANY OF OUR **OTHER** TITLES -- SUCH AS THE NIFTY NEW **BOZZ CHRONICLES** OR **SIX FROM SIRIUS II**, OUR UPCOMING **SEQUEL** TO THE HIT LIMITED SERIES OF LAST YEAR -- YOU KNOW I TRADITIONALLY APPEAR IN THESE EDITORIALS IN SOME INCREDIBLY LUDICROUS COSTUME THAT AT LEAST VAGUELY RELATES TO THE ISSUE'S CONTENT. WELL, **THIS** TIME, I DECIDED IF I COULDN'T **AVOID** THIS DEGRADING DUTY, I COULD CERTAINLY **CONTROL** THE CIRCUMSTANCES. SO I ABSOLUTELY **INSISTED** ON APPEARING AS ONE OF THE STORY'S **VILLAINS**. THAT WAY, I FIGURED, IF NOTHING ELSE I'D BE ABLE TO COME OFF AS A POWERFUL AND THREATENING FIGURE (NOT INCONSISTENT WITH **SOME** OF MY QUALITIES AS AN EDITOR) IN THE MANNER OF **ALL** REALLY GREAT COMIC BOOK VILLAINS.



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I'D SAY WE MADE IT JUST IN TIME!
BY THE ONE ABOVE US, DOOT!
MICKEY HERE'S TELLIN' ME WE GOT JUST AN EON OR TWO BEFORE THE CONSTELLATIONS ALIGN AND ALL SUCH AS THAT!
CUSICK...
IS THIS ANOTHER LESSON?
RIGHT THE FIRST TIME!
DOOT, ME BOY, YOU'VE COME FAR ENOUGH IN YOUR STUDIES TO TAKE THE NEXT BIG STEP. REMEMBER THE SHELL OF THE GREAT TURTLE?
SURE, YOU TRIED TO TRAP MY SPIRIT IN IT.
WELL, NOW WE'RE OFF TO TRAP SOME OTHERS!

CUSICK! YOU DON'T MEAN IT!
OF COURSE I DO! HAVEN'T YOU EVER WONDERED WHY I WANTED YOUR SPIRIT?
I TRY NOT TO THINK OF THOSE TIMES.
WELL, IT WAS BECAUSE ALL THE SIGNS SAID YOU WOULDN'T MAKE IT UNLESS YOU BROKE THE SHELL OF HUMANITY. I HAD TO BE PREPARED IN CASE YOU FAILED.
PREPARED FOR WHAT?
WHAT? WHY, DOOT, ME BOY...
WHY DO YOU THINK WE CALL OURSELVES...

Timespirits

LONG HAIR. RINGLETS.
HARD ASS. IRON BUTT,
CREEPING PANTHER.
GEORGE ARMSTRONG CUSTER.
JUNE 25, 1876, NEAR THE LITTLE BIG HORN RIVER IN MONTANA.
REMEMBER THE LEGEND. THE TRUTH? REMEMBER IT WAS LIKE THIS.
...FOR CRIMES AGAINST THE PEOPLE...
"...YOUR SPIRIT IS SURELY DAMNED."
T. YEATES

HURRY UP, DOOT!
THE ONE BELOW US WASTES NO TIME!
'SCUSE ME, BUT I KNOW YOU'D NOT WISH IT ON ANY LIVING CREATURE...
...EVEN HIM.
6

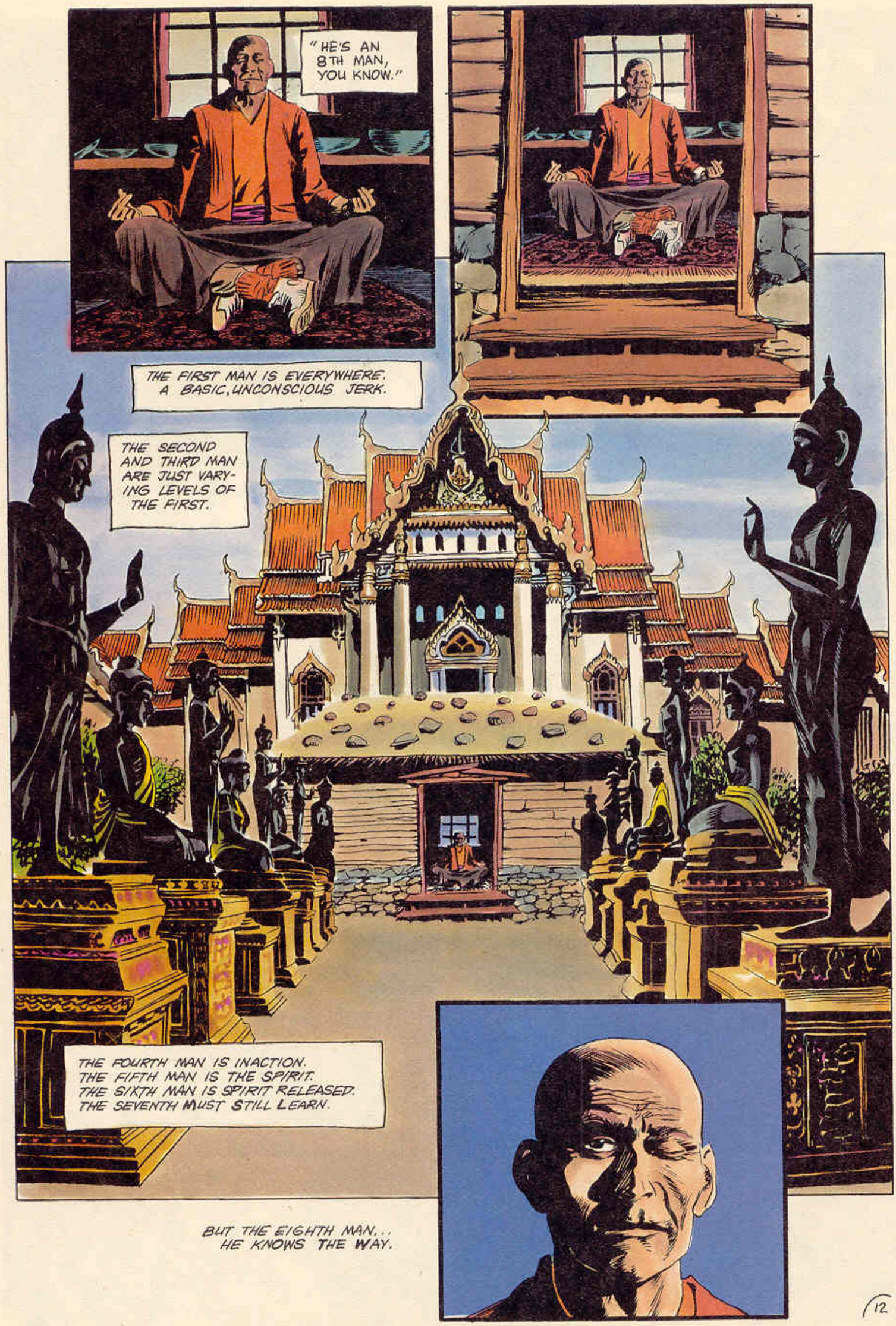
SAY GOODBYE TO YOUR BROTHERS, DOOT. THERE'S A LOT OF NASTY IN STORE FOR THESE POOR FELLOWS.
BY WHAT WE'RE DOING MAYBE SOMEDAY HISTORY WILL PLAY FAIR, AND STOP MISJUDGING 'EM.

ONE DOWN, ONE MORE TO GO!
CUSICK... I DON'T KNOW IF I APPROVE OF THIS. IT DOESN'T SEEM ...RIGHT.
FEELIN' A BIT OF A SHARK, AYE? A PREDATOR SWIMMIN' ABOUT LOOKIN' FOR SOMETHING TO BITE?
FELT THAT WAY MYSELF, ONCE...
'TIS PERHAPS THE END OF ME BUT I'M GLAD, YOU HEAR?
GLAD FOR EVERY BLOODY BABY I HACK UP! FOR EVERY WHINING WIFE WE GUTTED!

BLACK BONNY WILL SEE YOU ALL IN HELL...
HANG ON TIGHT TO YOUR SENSES, ME BOY...
...CAUSE WE'RE OUTTA HERE SO QUICK YOU MIGHT LOSE 'EM!
SO, EH, CUSICK...
YES?
WHAT DO WE DO WITH THESE SPIRITS CAPTURED ACROSS TIME?
GOOD QUESTION! DIDN'T I TELL YOU?

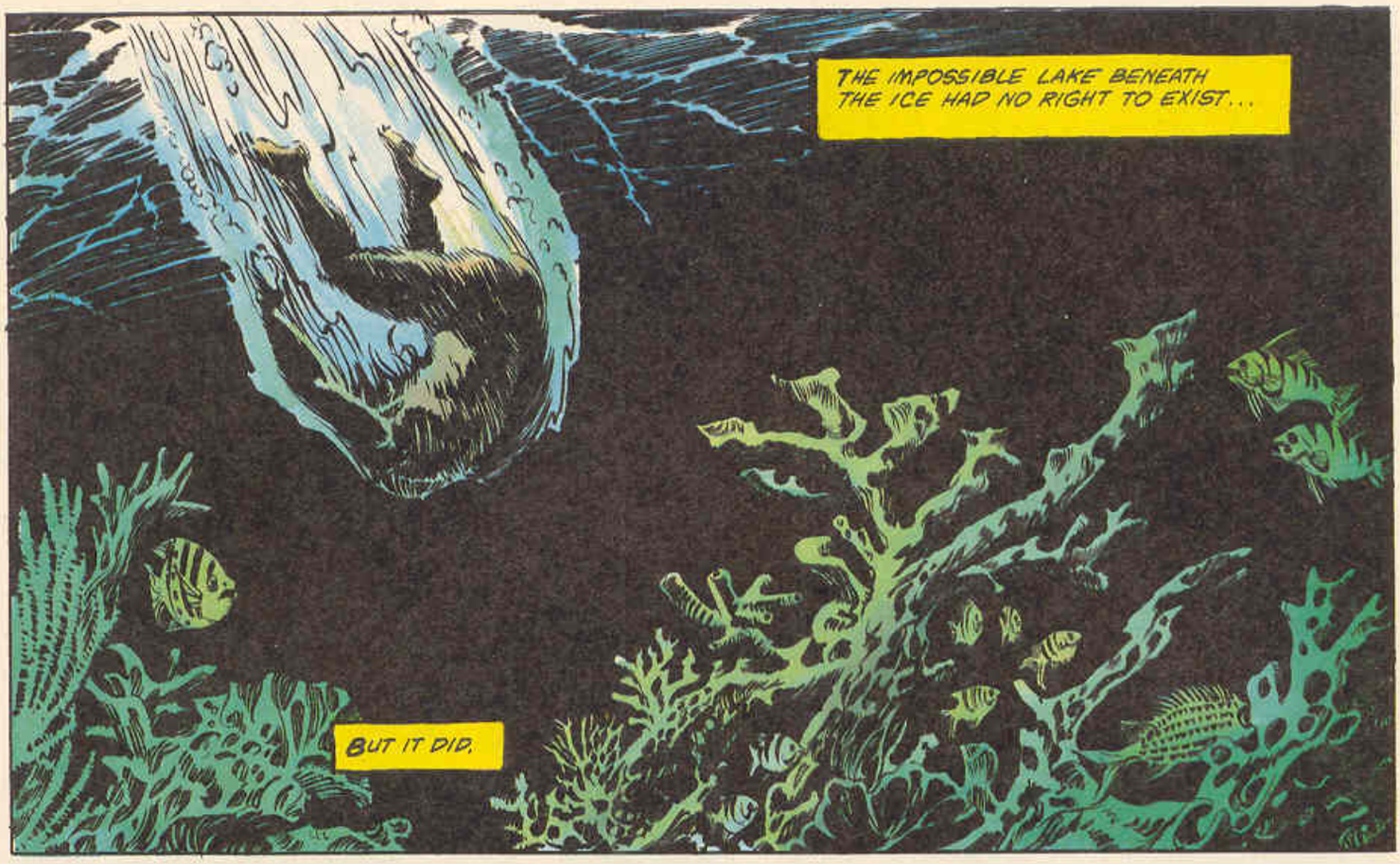
THE HAND OF THE YETI

WHY, WE TAKE 'EM HERE... TO NEPAL. FUNNY THING... HOW WHENEVER TIME ALIGNS YOU END UP HERE.
HELLO, HELLO! WOT'S THIS?
HUNGRY, LITTLE BEGGERS? LET'S SEE WHAT WE'VE GOT HID AWAY!
AND A HORN 'A PLENTY FOR YOU, TOO!
IS THAT WHERE WE'RE GOING?
YOU BET! CLIMBIN' THE MOUNTAIN OF MYTHS, WE ARE! UP TO SEE THAT HOLY BUGGER, THE LAMA.
SILVOY OUTFITTER


"HE'S AN 8TH MAN, YOU KNOW."
THE FIRST MAN IS EVERYWHERE. A BASIC, UNCONSCIOUS JERK.
THE SECOND AND THIRD MAN ARE JUST VARYING LEVELS OF THE FIRST.
THE FOURTH MAN IS INACTION.
THE FIFTH MAN IS THE SPIRIT.
THE SIXTH MAN IS SPIRIT RELEASED.
THE SEVENTH MUST STILL LEARN.
BUT THE EIGHTH MAN... HE KNOWS THE WAY.

OOOL OF THE YETI, WILL KNOW THE WAY, TOO...
ONLY HIS WAY SHALL BE AS FROZEN AND TERRIBLE AS HIS SEMI-HUMAN HEART.
THE HEART THAT BREEDS THE HATE AND AMBITION OF EVERY MAN WITH SUCH SAVAGE DESIRES...
...SUCH MADNESS...
...AGAIN?
THEN I WAS WRONG. THERE'S NO HOPE FOR YOU. AND THE BLOOD OF OUR LAST MATES COVERS ME FOR BRINGING YOU INTO EXISTENCE.
NOW YOU MUST END.

AS NOW ALL YETI MUST END.



PERHAPS IT WAITED EONS, PERHAPS ONLY A MICROSECOND.

...AND THEN...

THE IMPOSSIBLE LAKE...
... DISAPPEARS.
ONLY ROCK RESIDES WHERE THE WATER HAD BEEN. THE POINT OF POWER HAS GONE.
HI THERE!
NEED HELP?
I KNOW SOMETHING YOU DON'T KNOW.
AND SINCE I CAUGHT YOU FAIR AND SQUARE...
I'LL TELL YOU.

I KNOW THE HAND OF THE YETI, AND WHAT IT CAN DO.
THE OLD ONE KNOWS, BUT HE'D NEVER TELL YOU, WOULD HE?
BUT I WILL.
HAPPY?
NOW YOU KNOW WHAT YOU ARE, AND HOW TO USE THE YETI HALF OF YOU.
ONCE YOU'VE GOT THE ALAMA UNDER WRAPS, YOU CAN DIGEST SOME VERY SPECIAL SPIRITS I HAPPEN TO KNOW!

SOME-THING'S AMISS... I FEEL IT.
I JUST FEEL COLD. AND OUT OF BREATH. CUSICK, I DON'T SEE WHY WE DON'T JUST FLY UP THERE. I KNOW THE SPELL OF GRAVITY!
DON'T BOTHER YOUR-SELF, ME BOY. THERE'S ONLY ONE KNOWLEDGE THAT WORKS ON THE MOUNTAIN OF MYTH.
WELL, IF YOU THINK SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH YOUR LAMA FRIEND, THEN I SHOULD GO CHECK.
DOOT! WAIT...
CU... CUSICK?
GIMSHE G'UM SKA ZIIIIIDD DDD!

HA! SOME FOOL FELL.
ZZZ

LAMA HIMSELF TAUGHT ME NEVER TO ATTEMPT A BIT 'O TRICKERY ON THE MOUNTAIN OF MYTH. LIKE I SAID... IT DOESN'T OPERATE CORRECTLY.
NOW I'M ON THE ALLOTED AGE I'VE NO REASON TO THINK HIM MISTAKEN. NEITHER DO YOU, DOOT.
'SIDES, CLIMBING THE MOUNTAIN'S HIS WAY OF MAKIN' A BODY PROVE HIMSELF.
ANY HALF-RATE LEVITATOR OR HELICOPTOR PILOT COULD FLY UP THERE.
BUT ONLY THOSE WHAT CLIMBS CAN EVEN SEE THE LAMA...
...MUCH LESS MAKE USE OF WHAT HE ALONE CAN DO.

IS IT SHARP ENOUGH? YOU SURE? YOU SURE?
GOTTA BE SHARP!
CHOP!
GET IT! GET IT! GET IT AND HOLD IT HIGH!
THE HAND OF THE YETI WILL DO THE REST!

LAMA! 8TH MAN! I'VE BROUGHT YOU SOMETHING!
COME OUT! COME OUT! TAKE THE GIFT!
TAKE IT! YOU MUST!
I AM... SORRY FOR YOU.

I AM SORRY FOR YOUR...

...SUCCESS...
OH, DEAR...
NOW I KNOW SOMETHING'S AMISS!
HURRY UP, DOOT!

I'M IN HERE.

AND YOU, LAMA, ARE OUT THERE.'

FISH! GET OVER HERE!
SO YOU WANT TO MEET THE ONE ABOVE US!
OH, YES! YES! IT'S ME! NOT THOSE TIMESPIRITS!
BUT I WANT THEM, TOO. THEY'RE COMING TO SEE THE LAMA... AND SEE THEM I WILL...
...BUT FIRST YOU GO TELL THEM I DIVINE THEIR ARRIVAL, AND WAIT EAGERLY FOR WHAT THEY'VE BROUGHT ME.
AND TAKE THE ROUTE THROUGH MY OLD VILLAGE!

FOLLOW! FOLLOW! I'LL GIVE YOU A WISH!
BUT YOU CAN'T CATCH ME!
I'M A TALKING FISH!
ALMOST THERE, ME BOY!
JUST A LITTLE HIGHER...

I KNOW SOMETHING YOU DON'T KNOW!
THIS TIME I'D BE TEMPTED TO AGREE WITH YOU, FISH.
I'M A BLOODY IDIOT TO THINK ALL YOU KNEW WAS THE SPURTYN DUYVEL.

HOW'D YOU GET HERE? WHAT ARE YOU DOING? YOU'RE UP TO NO GOOD, I'D WAGER.
AND WHAT DO YOU KNOW, YOU LITTLE IMP?
LAMA WANTS YOU! THE LAMA DOES!

WELL, OF COURSE! I'M HERE TO SEE HIM! THE SHELL OF THE GREAT TURTLE'S FILLED UP! IT'S TIME TO SHOW DOOT WHAT A TIMESPIRIT DOES WITH THE SPIRITS THAT COME OUR WAY.
LAMA KNOWS IT, I'M SURE.
IT'S NOT AS IF THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE ESCORTED THE DAMNED TO THE ONE ABOVE US!
IS THAT THE LESSON, CUSICK?
RIGHT YOU ARE ME, BOY! SOON WE'LL BE...

BY THE ONE ABOVE US!

HE WON'T GET THOSE SPIRITS! AND HE WON'T GET YOURS, EITHER! NEITHER WILL THE ONE BELOW US!
THEY'RE MINE! ALL MINE!
CUSICK... IS THAT LAMA?
IT WAS...
BUT I CAUGHT A SPIRIT EATER... AND SET HIM FREE! SET HIM FREE!
A SPIRIT EATER'S IN THE LAMA!
AND HE'LL GET YOU! AND HE'LL GET ME! ME! ME!
AND GOBBLE US UP FOR ETERNITY!

CUSICK THE TUSCARORA AND DOOT OF THE WAWENOC GET COOKED NEXT ISSUE IN WHAT CAN ONLY BE TITLED:

FILET of SOUL

c/o Epic Comics; 10th FL; 387 Park Avenue South; New York, NY 10016

Dear Archie,

Without hesitation I will say that ***Timespirits*** is one of the finest comic book series I have ever read. I have been a mag collector for more than twenty-five years and never once have I been sufficiently inspired to write a letter to the editor.

You fellows are geniuses. The artwork, the storyline, the special blend of irreverence and humor are sensational. Your first edition was a masterpiece. Cusick is to Don Genero as Doot is to Carlos Castaneda. What a pair! What a comic book!

My only concern is that this stuff is so good it won't be a hit. If there were an award for best new comic book of the year I'd give it to ***Timespirits.*** I hope the talented crew responsible for the adventure of our men of knowledge stay together for a long time to come. Count me among your loyal fans and keep up the great work.

John W. Keeler
Palo Alto, CA

Dear Time Lines,

Recently, I have noticed an ever-growing fascination with the permutations of time in the comics medium. I'm not sure exactly what bought this out, but the tales this quirk has spawned have been tremendously interesting. I think that possibly the Doctor Who comic, which I have not read for puritanical reasons, created or at least contributed to this trend. Then came Aztec Ace, an extraordinary book written by one of the modern greats. Then came ***Timespirits.***

Initially after seeing the book on the racks and reading some about in the trades, I didn't think it was going to go anywhere. The premise seemed overused, and the plots, I felt, would be disappointing. Then I picked up the book to see if my suspicions were founded.

Well, they weren't. I found myself drawn into this world of paradoxes (which I have always enjoyed anyway) and Indians. So, I picked up the next issue. And the next. And the next, and the next, up to the latest issue, #6. I was entranced with the complexity of the plot and the content as well. Having Jimi Hendrix appear as the god of music was a completely unexpected twist that certainly bore fruit.

In the space of only a few issues, you introduced many, many supporting characters and managed to get rid of them justifiably, logically, and satisfying. That is something difficult to do in the comic medium.

On top of the writing, the art is top notch. The fixed lines and vibrant colors of normal comics would ill-fit this book, so I am glad you opted for a more pastel, sketchy look. This does not mean, however, that your pictures are any the less distinct; on the contrary, they make everything look more real and believable.

Thank you so much for this quality work. Keep up this standard of quality and I can guarantee you a long run.

Scott Wesely
Lincoln, NE

Dear Steve, Tom, Margaret & Archie,

While reading ***Timespirits #6,*** I was again reminded of America's most glaring fault. That is its absolutely irrational fear of the communistic system of government. No matter how exploitative, brutal or repressive a country's regime may be towards its native peoples it becomes of secondary importance when the red flag of communism is raised as the alternative. The U.S. has been notoriously slow to react to growing revolutions in places like Iran under the Shah, Nicaragua under Somoza and continues propping up dictators like Marcos in the Philippines, Madrid in Mexico, Straessner in Paraguay, South Africa's apartheid policies and Guatemala's and Brazil's ruthless extermination of its indigent Indian

populations. The human rights violations in these and other countries should be soundly denounced in no uncertain terms by your government yet you remain silent for fear of offending the wealthy, corrupt power elite which will in turn spark grass roots rebellion.

I am not, let me emphasize, a believer in the communistic view of society. It would inhibit my personal sense of freedom, stifle me. For many poor, developing countries around the world however it strikes me as the lesser of two evils. Russia's standard of living and status in the world has risen dramatically since the Revolution as have Cuba's and even China has made great strides in the short time since its revolution.

By making the almighty dollar the symbol of all that's wrong with Yankee imperialism it makes it easy for communist interests to gain a foothold in budding guerrilla movements which otherwise may have turned to a democratic model of government using America as its starting point.

That's what I like about this comic. It spurs my thinking, it's thoroughly entertaining, the artwork is among the best in the field and *no* fight scenes. It's obvious Doot and Cusick are characters you've created to care a great deal about.

I was disturbed while reading an interview with Tom Yeates that a fair bit of rancor exists between Steve Perry and he over writing and creative control of the book. That surprises me, it sure doesn't show in the finished product. I hope these differences can be quickly ironed out as I'd hate to see this book go down the tubes. ***Timespirits*** has too much going for it for me to want to see that happen.

Gary Kimber
Downsview, CANADA

Dear Steve, Tom and all,

I just received Issue #6. Wow. Excellent messages! Dedicated to the Indians of Guatemala! The depiction of the American "presence" was realistically portrayed. While the natives stay at home and stay tuned to the uncaring brutality and dark hurtful stuff. Then, at the end, when you showed the group of "fat cats" gathering at the Bohemian Grove, wow! Not many people know that this place actually exists. This little primordial playground for the bad boys who are running the country. Nixon saying "Jim, you're dead!" and all those nightmare faces of the walking dead...wow! I hope this book finds the audience it deserves, and I mean a large one! A fine example of informative art.

Other touches I loved, aside from Tom's incredible detail, especially of the ruins and the sunken ships, were the tennis shoes, Jimi coming upon the Rolling Stones song about Central American violence, and his wry comment. Admittedly, because you are working in a very tight matrix, 30 pages, there are weak spots of story telling, but somehow I'm willing to forgive it all when looking at the fantastic informative stuff you put in there.

While the corporate war mongers have their hero, their "Rambo", to justify the women and children killing, at least you two are giving voice to real human sentiments, and expressing pieces of factually based happenings in your work.

It gives me great pleasure to see the future worked out. Thanks a lot. We've got to rid of the horse malarkey we've been programmed with if we're ever to be strong and uphold the truth. And the truth is, "War is hell!" Bombs and killing and violence; these are all hell. Right here on our wonderful heaven of a planet. The empire never died, as Phil Dick said in Valis, but neither has the human spirit; the Time Spirits and this story of yours expresses that fact.

Jon Strongbow
Seattle, WA

Issue #6 provoked many responses. While a comic is not suppose to do this we are gratified if it started people talking. However, not all the responses were positive...

Dear Sirs,

I am a forty-three year old practising psychotherapist who is also a former federal government employee (Interior Dept.) and a former US Army officer and Vietnam veteran. The reason that I am writing is in regard to a so-called "comic book" published by your subsidiary company Marvel Comics Group's division Epic Comics.

The document in question is ***Timespirits*** Vol. 1, No. 6, September, 1985. This document paints the current Central American situation in grossly simplistic terms designed to defame and discredit the constructive involvement of both the United States government and American private industry in Central America.

I realize that comics of the general category that ***Timespirits*** falls in are considered by many to be adult reading and that adults are considered to be able to separate anti-American propaganda from fact but the vehicle of a comic complete with cute Indians and popular singers such as Jimi Hendrix is obviously designed to appeal to the youth market to some extent.

I ask only that you look carefully at what your comics division has published and ask yourself if this is the kind of rep-

resentation of this country's involvement in Central America that you would want to color the opinions of your own children. Review it yourself and see if the lies and myths of the "ugly American" are not reinforced by this document. Not all Americans are saints but neither are they all sinners and the treatment of the camposenos by the Communists in Central America has shown that their system offers no apparent improvement in the real living conditions of the people. Constructive change is needed in the region but propaganda such as you have published indirectly through your Epic Comics subdivision serves only to confuse and misdirect the American people in their concern over the current situation in that region. In case you're wondering if I know what I'm talking about in Central America, I have an undergraduate degree in Latin American History and I qualified Jungle Expert at Ft. Sherman in Panama.

Please monitor and consider the impact of such publications in the future.

James J. Berryhill
Atlanta, GA

Dear Mr. Perry,

I have considered Timespirits a ***superior*** comic book since it's inception and have looked forward to each new issue. But, in Issue #6 you chose a form of storytelling that I found insulting and abhorrent. Instead of "merely" telling a story you chose to indulge in propaganda of the most obvious sort. Much of Central America is experiencing difficult and divisive problems that too often lead to the injury or death of innocents. You had an opportunity to present an objective picture of the Guatemalan Indians and their plight possibly enlightening your readers. Instead you chose ideological sophistry to promote what I must conclude are your own political beliefs.

We've heard it all before. Big business, the US Government in general, the CIA specifically are completely evil and corrupt and will exploit and murder anyone in order to increase their own power and wealth. These people, by the mere fact of the positions they hold, have no values, beliefs, or ideals other than for their own self-aggrandizement. Let's not forget that the Guatemalan Government and Military have no love for their own country and it's people but are merely stupid and cruel puppets of powerful American interest. Their only pleasure is derived from rape and murder. (The Guatemalan Indians?) Only hard working farmers who have known only a life of oppression and injustice.

And of course, Jimi Hendrix, another victim. He didn't die of a heroin overdose because he was a weakling and a junkie. No, insensitive and manipulative corporate types "made his life a living hell" leaving him no alternative. What disgust me most is your indignation is so damned selected. When will Doot and Cusick visit the Holocaust to the Khmer Rouge, the 40 million killed in the Stalinist Purges, the torture cells of Khomeini's Iran, the poison gas attacks in Laos, the carpet bombings in Afghanistan, the crushing of the Czechoslovakin and Hungarian uprisings; the deliberate starvation of Ethiopians, the murder of Polish priests, the near genocide of the Miskito Indians, the Chinese Cultural Revolution, and Idi Amin's kitchen? Obviously, this roll call of terror and atrocities could go on much longer. Certainly, the number of deaths just listed are much more horrific than those presented in Issue #6. I am concerned that you ignore these crimes because they don't coincide with your political mindset of who the oppressor is and who is the oppressed. You must have noticed that neither Big Business nor any US Governmental agency were involved with any of those events.

My real fear is that you, and people like you, are more interested in finding scapegoats and promoting a certain political viewpoint than truly striving to reduce the cruelty and injustice inflicted on so many people, in so many lands. Let's hope such is not the case. In any event, spare your readers any future specious and prejudiced tales you yearn to have published.

Donald C. Bollman
New York, NY

First of all, Jimi Hendrix did not die of a heroin overdose. There is zero evidence of his even taking that particular drug, according to the autopsy.

Why attack capitalist terrorists when communist terrorists are just as vicious? (If not several points ahead in the death count?) Because capitalist sponsored terror in Latin America is financed by my tax dollars thru my government agencies. I believe in getting my own house in order before attacking my neighbors.

Please don't blame Steve Perry for the politics in Issue #6. They were my own.

—Tom Yeates